

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below. The language being added is underlined ("___") and the language being deleted contains either a strikethrough ("—") or is enclosed by double brackets ("[[]]").

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-34. (Canceled).

35. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing a ~~transmission unit from forwarding a transmit signal that may result in a~~ DC flow condition caused by a transmit signal, comprising:

monitoring a data signal;

generating a first signal in response to a data signal condition to prevent the DC flow condition;

monitoring a clock signal; and

generating a second signal in response to a clock signal condition to prevent the DC flow condition.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the data signal is provided by a delta-sigma modulator.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of monitoring a data signal is performed with a digital comparator.

38. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the first signal is a power down signal.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the power down signal is generated in response to a data signal having an unchanging value.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the power down signal is generated by an asynchronous counter that reaches a maximum value.

41. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the second signal is a reset signal.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein the reset signal is generated in response to a clock signal having a frequency that fails to exceed a predetermined minimum value.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the reset signal is generated by a monostable circuit.